

INDIANAPOLIS LIGHTHOUSE CHARTER SCHOOL

2012-2013 Performance Analysis

Core Question 3: Is the school meeting its operations and access obligations?

3.1. Has the school satisfactorily completed all of its organizational and governance obligations?	
STANDARD	School has substantially completed all of its organizational and governance obligations as specified in the Compliance and Governance Handbook, including maintenance of adequate “compliance and governance binder” containing all required documents; completion of criminal background checks on all board members; transparency of meetings and decision-making in accordance with open meetings obligations; maintenance of adequate board minutes. Any concerns are minor and the school presents a credible plan to address them.

2012-13 Performance: Approaching Standard

For the 2012-13 school year, Indianapolis Lighthouse Charter School completed a portion of its governance and organizational compliance obligations. Ms. Sarah Pies, who was the Regional Vice-President for Lighthouse Academies, worked diligently with the school leadership to ensure compliance in all areas required by the Mayor’s Office of Education Innovation. Ms. Pies submitted required documentation in advance of compliance due dates, and the information submitted was clear and concise. Criminal background checks, board member resumes, and updates were sent immediately upon changes.

Board meetings were transparent with public notices always posted in advance of meetings and board minutes reflected thoughtful discussions that covered key areas. However, the Lighthouse Academies of Indianapolis board was challenged in engaging in thoughtful discussion that focused on the performance of the two Indianapolis schools since meetings were conducted via conference call and all five schools were discussed. Board minutes, which were prepared by LAI were organized and presented in a manner that accurately reflects meetings. However, the local board needed more clarity on policies and procedures to ensure compliance with Indiana Open Door Law.

Accordingly, Indianapolis Lighthouse Charter School was **approaching standard** on this indicator.

3.2. Is the school's physical plant safe and conducive to learning?	
STANDARD	Significant health and safety code requirements are being met AND the facility generally provides a safe environment that is conducive to learning, based on conditions such as: a design well-suited to meet the curricular and social needs of its students, faculty, and community members; a size appropriate for the enrollment and student-teacher ratios in each class; good maintenance and security; well-maintained equipment and furniture that match the educational needs of the students; and accessibility to all students.

2012-13 Performance: **Meets Standard**

In 2012-13, the Indianapolis Lighthouse Charter School facility met all health and safety code requirements and provided a safe environment conducive to learning. The facility's design, size, maintenance, security, equipment and furniture were all adequate to meet the school's needs. The school was accessible to all including people with physical disabilities. The Mayor's Office monitoring of ILCS's compliance with health and safety code requirements did not reveal any significant concerns related to these obligations. Accordingly, the school **met** the Mayor's Office standard for this indicator for 2012-13.

3.3. Has the school established and implemented a fair and appropriate pupil enrollment process?	
STANDARD	The school's enrollment process complies with applicable law; there are minimal documented parent complaints suggesting that it is not being implemented fairly or appropriately; AND the school has engaged in outreach to students throughout the community.

2012-13 Performance: **Meets Standard**

Indianapolis Lighthouse Charter School **met standard** for 2012-13 because the school engaged local community groups in its 2012-13 recruitment and enrollment cycle. The school had an enrollment and lottery process that complied with Indiana charter school law.

3.4. Do the school's special education files demonstrate that it is in legal compliance and is moving towards best practice?	
STANDARD	<u>All</u> of the following are evident in the school's special education files: a) services outlined within Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) adequately match the exceptional needs of the student; b) each need identified within the IEP has a corresponding goal and plan for assessment; c) each goal is rigorous and is based on state and national learning standards; d) explicit evidence exists to demonstrate that goals have evolved each year as the student develops; and e) specifically designed curriculum is outlined.

Not Evaluated. Indianapolis Lighthouse Charter School was not evaluated on this indicator for 2012-13.

3.5. Is the school fulfilling its legal obligations related to access and services to English as a Second Language (ESL) students?	
STANDARD	The school is fulfilling its legal obligations regarding ESL students, as indicated by conditions such as the following: appropriate staff have a clear understanding of current legislation, research and effective practices relating to the provision of ESL services; relationships with students, parents, and external providers that are well-managed and comply with law and regulation.

Not Evaluated. Indianapolis Lighthouse Charter School was not evaluated on this indicator for 2012-13.